

# MISGA GRAM

www.MISGA.Org

November 2003

VOLUME 75



## President's Message

### Ken Wallgren

As this golf year comes to a finish, it's time to extend a large thanks to all the club reps that have worked so hard rescheduling mixers due to cold weather, rain and a hurricane. Their hard work has made this another successful MISGA season.

Both the ABCD and 2-man teams were played as scheduled on rain soaked courses. The winners in both tournaments are congratulated for their golf and survival skills. The MISGA board of directors had to wait eight months before a round of golf was possible on the day of a board meeting.

The ProAm tournaments held in Division II, III, and IV this year were very successful. These events provide a unique opportunity for the MISGA members and their Pros to get to know each other in a non-work or golf scheduling environment.

A very special recognition is extended to the MISGA Committee chairmen who have done an excellent job. They are; **Associates** - Bob Dernoga, **Audit** - San Nisbet, **Counsel** - Alfred Isaacs, **Event** - Pete Sorge, **Historian** - Bill Brown, **Membership** - Paul Desmond, **MISGAGRAM** - Jim Mitchell, **Planning** - Bob Nicholson, **Rules & Handicaps** - C.J. Myers, **Tournaments** - Jimmy Lee, **Web** - Dick Walsh, **Past Presidents** - Charlie Fieldhouse.

As I pass the president's gavel to my successor, Don Ewalt, I would like to express my great appreciation to the Board of Directors, the MISGA committee Chairmen, Club Reps, their Assistants and MISGA members who worked to make this a successful year.

The annual Fall MISGA Board Bash is intended by the MISGA Board of Directors to recognize the contributions of all the Reps, Assistant Reps, and Division Officers whose volunteer efforts make our organization possible.

Currently hosted by Division 2, the Bash is a two-day affair, usually consisting of one day of individual medal play and one day of scramble format. Various competitive and social activities are part of the festivities.

The Board Bash for 2003 was held at Carroll Valley Resort September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. 89 attendees from 33 MISGA clubs enjoyed great golf, great fellowship, and great weather (at least the weather was great on Wednesday). Thursday golf was threatened by Hurricane Isabel. Half the field needed to leave early in order to reach home before bridges were closed. Of the ad hoc team rearrangement, seven teams were awarded prizes, notably the team of Dan Williams, Jack Johnson, Evan Davey, and George Leroy with a first place score of 65.

In addition to the gross pool, skins games (net) were offered for both men and women. The skins prize money was divided among players whose net scores on any holes were lower than anyone else in their pool.

## Wednesday Prize Winners

### Net Stroke Play (Men)

66 - Bob Loun  
66 - Ed Wratten  
66 - John Carpenter  
67 - Arnie Simms  
67 - Phil Peluso  
67 - Bob Rippeon  
68 - Dan Williams  
68 - Ross Kenny  
69 - Nick Delia  
69 - Lloyd Wescoe  
69 - Joe Hollister  
69 - Norbert Muench  
69 - Dick Walsh

### Net Stroke Play (Ladies)

70 - Aretta Keadle  
70 - Norma Spicher  
74 - Alice Daino  
75 - Audrey Palerino  
75 - Wilma Kennedy  
78 - Judi Dixon  
79 - Rachel Wratten

### Gross Pool Stroke Play

74 - Dan Williams  
78 - Lloyd Wescoe  
78 - Norbert Muench  
79 - Ed Wratten  
81 - John Carpenter  
82 - Clarence Moody  
83 - Jackie Martin  
85 - Dick Walsh

### Men's Team

282 - Dan Williams  
Pete Sorge  
Ed McDonald  
Bob Rippeon

### Ladies' Team

284 - Norma Spicher  
Rita Delia  
Ruby Wallgren  
Mabel Muench

### Ladies' 9-hole (tie)

Deloris Donnelly  
Haydee McGugan

### Men's Skins

John Carpenter  
Joe Hollister (2)  
Bob Imbergamo  
Bob Loun  
Tony Palerino  
Ed Wratten (2)

### Ladies' Skins

Carol Boardman  
Connie Cucian  
Joan Hall  
Audrey Palerino  
Ruby Wallgren (2)  
Rachel Wratten

**Our Thanks to Dick Walsh for the Board Bash Report!**

## RULES AND HANDICAPS

A survey taken by our committee this year revealed that over one third of the clubs in MISGA do not have a handicap committee, hence there is little or no enforcement in those clubs of the requirement to post all scores for peer review. This gives rise to the possibility that many of our nearly 5,000 Associates have an erroneous handicap index – one that is not representative of the golfer's true ability.

Even though our 2003 golf season has ended, there is the continuing requirement to post scores from rounds Associates may play where there is still an active season, i. e. further south. You should keep a record of the date played, score, course rating, and slope. Then next spring enter these data into the handicap computer at your club to ensure an accurate, up-to-date index.

A rules violation most often observed in MISGA is moving the ball in the rough. Some of our members do this out of habit, or forgetfulness, while others improve their lie in the rough using the excuse that they are merely identifying their ball. If you observe this violation happening, it is your responsibility to tell the offender his score cannot be used for that hole.

Our R & H committee has worked hard over the past few years to identify the problems and to seek solutions. However, we can only succeed with your help and participation at both the club and individual levels. Along with the pleasure of enjoying the camaraderie of our mixers, tournaments, and other events is an obligation to **PLAY BY THE RULES.**

*Contributing to this article were committee members Bob Colvin, Dick Crone, Terry Stuver, and C. J. Myers*

### **Letter to the Editor;**

I read the letter to the editor on slow play in the August MISGA-GRAM with the suggestions of the handicap committee on picking up your ball and how to score these events. I believe the problem is that although the Pro at most clubs addresses "pace of play", when an individual in a foursome wants to play out each hole even though his score will not count, no one in the foursome has the power/authority to tell the individual to Pick-up. This is generally the crux of the problem of slow play. I suggest the following.

Ask each MISGA Rep. at his home course before a Mixer to address slow play and state the time it should take to complete a round. Then ask each foursome to designate a Captain before leaving the staging area. The Captain may be the low handicapper of the group or one of the host club players in the foursome. Make it known that the Captain of the foursome is responsible for the pace of play for his group. Let it be known that he may be asking individuals in his group to pick - up at times or make other suggestions to his group to meet the time stated for the round as suggested by the MISGA Representative.

I believe that this method, after being reviewed and modified as necessary, and then Published by MISGA as policy will be better anticipated and received by the membership and go a long way to improving "pace of play".

Sincerely,

Frank McCarthy,  
Argyle Country Club



### **The Winners of the Two Man Team Tournament** ( Pictured above)

1st- Bob Dowling & Jim Spataro - Ocean Pines

2nd- Julian Orlinsky & Tom Conroy - Prospect Bay

### **The Winners of the Past Presidents Tournament**

Low Gross - Bob Burd - Shawnee

Low Net - Owen Wise - Caroline

### **Did You Know?**

That section IX of the MISGA HANDBOOK spells out the Code of Conduct for all of us who are MISGA Associates?

It says that the Code applies to and is binding on all Member Clubs and all MISGA Associates.

"The provisions of the Code are based on the premise that each MISGA Associate is fully aware of the rules of golf and of accepted Golf Course courtesies, conduct and ethics. Accordingly, any professed ignorance of these standards will not be accepted as an excuse for misconduct or willful and careless infractions."

"This Code shall be applicable to all Interclub Mixers, Division qualifying tournaments, MISGA tournaments and MISGA authorized Events." "MISGA and its Associates shall comply with the USGA Rules of Golf as well as local rules of the host club, and any rules of the Tournament Committee."

The MISGA Board of Directors wants to insure that all who pay MISGA dues are aware that they are MISGA Associates and are bound by the Code of Conduct as written in Section IX of the MISGA Hand book. All Club Representatives have a copy of the Hand Book for those who want to read the entire Code.

### Letter to the Editor:

There has been much confusion about when to record scores as "Tournament Scores" and what impact it has on handicaps. The USGA differentiates tournament scores in the handicap system in order to identify and correct for situations where people habitually make much better scores in tournaments than at other times. In MISGA, the ABCD and Two Man events are tournaments, while mixers are not. Individual competitions in our Spring Flings and Fall Frolics are also tournaments. The normal handicap index is calculated from the last twenty scores, tournaments included. Then, if two or more tournament scores within the past year, whether in the last twenty or not, are significantly better than normal, the handicap index is reduced based on a table. This calculation is done each time handicaps are updated at the first of each month.

Dick Walsh



At the MISGA Board Meeting on September 16th (see above) it was proposed that we reduce the number of MISGAGRAM issues from four to three per year. The Issues would be sent out in January, May and September/October. During the discussion which followed it was pointed out that the MISGAGRAM is the single biggest expense that we have in our Budget. One of the ways to cut this expense is to go to three issues as well as cut down on the number of printed copies mailed out by having more members read the MISGAGRAM on the MISGA Web Site.

With the above in mind your Editor is asking all those who would prefer to receive the MISGAGRAM on the web to please e-mail me at [jwm324@comcast.net](mailto:jwm324@comcast.net) and register your e-mail address with me. We will then take your name off of our Post Mail list and put you on our e-mail list.

The advantage to the web is that you will receive the issue faster; it will be in color and you can print it if you so wish. So please think it over and let me know as soon as you can.

JWM

### *Deceased Members*

The following members have passed away since the last issue of the MISGAGRAM:

Joe Campagna                      John P Scott  
William Koch                        Gerald Sonnenberg  
Carl Rosen

### **Division III Pro Am October 7, 2003**

The winning Team: Tom Gancarz, Richard Tiikkala, Mario Beltran & Arnold Simms from Division 1 Club Eagle Creek Golf Club with a Score of 59. Eagle Creek does not have a Pro so Tim Ruddo of Manor CC was assigned to the Eagle Creek team.

### **Members in MISGA**

Associates Committee Chairman Bob Deroga reports that we have 4,426 members in MISGA as of the end of September 2003. Club Reps are reminded to update their club rosters and prepare to collect dues for 2004.

## **SPRING FLING 2004**

### **EARLY NOTICE**

The Spring Fling returns to Ocean City Golf & Yacht Club On May 3 - 4, 2004.

The Clarion Resort Hotel will be used for Banquet and Room accommodations.

We will play on the O.C. Seaside and Newport Bay courses.

Tour activities provided for the non-golfers.

An **entry form** is included in this MISGAGRAM for all who wish to apply early.

Complete details along with the entry form will also be contained in the February 2004 MISGAGRAM.

Apply early. An entry form is also downloadable from the Web at: **[WWW.MISGA.ORG](http://WWW.MISGA.ORG)**

## **Welcome to MISGA**

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept **WINTER'S RUN** as a new member club into MISGA at the September 16 Board Meeting.

**Jim Mitchell**  
**MISGAGRAM EDITOR**  
**324 Locust Thorn Court**  
**Millersville, MD 21108**

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Andy Wilcox takes one for his team. Not many guys would hit one off of a cart full of trash to save a stroke.